

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend and/or cancel the claim(s) of the captioned application, and/or add claim(s) to the captioned application, in accordance with the following annotations and/or mark-ups showing all change(s) relative to the previous version(s) of the claim(s) as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.121:

1. (Currently amended) A method of hardfacing a workpiece comprising the steps of:

depositing a hardfacing material on a workpiece at a temperature high enough to create a molten puddle of the hardfacing material on the workpiece, and

introducing hardening pellets into the molten puddle on the workpiece while moving the workpiece, the hardening pellets being introduced into the molten puddle from a location remote from the point at which the hardfacing material is deposited on the workpiece, either the spacing between the point at which the hardfacing material is deposited onto the workpiece or the rate of movement of the workpiece being adjusted so that the hardfacing material remains molten until the ~~hardfacing material is~~ hardening pellets are introduced into the molten puddle of hardfacing material.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pellets are introduced into the molten puddle by injection.

3. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the pellets are cooled before being introduced into the molten puddle.

4. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the pellets are comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of steel, tungsten, chrome carbide, tungsten carbide, and ceramic tungsten.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pellets are comprised of tungsten ~~that melts at a temperature greater than about 1800°F.~~

Cancel claim 6 without prejudice.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising introducing pellets into the molten puddle at a second location remote from the point at which the hardfacing material is deposited on the workpiece.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the pellets introduced into the molten puddle at a second location are of different size, shape, or composition than the pellets introduced into the molten puddle at the first location.

9. (Previously amended) A hardfaced workpiece produced by the process of claim 1.

10. (Original) Apparatus for hardfacing a workpiece comprising:
means for moving a workpiece to be hardfaced;
a deposition head positioned relative to the workpiece for depositing a molten pool of hardfacing material on the workpiece; and
a pellet metering device positioned remote from said deposition head for introducing hardening pellets into the molten pool of hardfacing material as the workpiece is moved.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said workpiece moving means moves the workpiece at a controlled rate, the rate of movement being selected to insure that the pellets penetrate down into the molten pool of hardfacing material.

12. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 10 additionally comprising means for changing the position of said deposition head, said pellet metering device, or both said deposition head and said pellet metering device, relative to the workpiece, relative to each other, or both relative to the workpiece and each other.

13. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 10 additionally comprising means for injecting the pellets into the molten pool of hardfacing material.

14. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 10 additionally comprising means for cooling the pellets.

15. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 10 additionally comprising means for controlling the rate, volume, or rate and volume of pellets introduced into the molten pool.